

**Claims:**

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.     A collaboration hub for use with a collaboration system,  
comprising:
- a hub transport for receiving messages from participants and  
          sending messages to participants;
- a hub router for routing messages from a first participant to a  
10       second participant;
- a hub scheduler for scheduling the flow of messages between the  
          hub router and the hub transport;
- a conversation manager for managing the flow of messages  
          between participants; and,
- 15       a repository for storing conversation management data.
2.     The collaboration hub of claim 1 wherein additional  
          components may be plugged into the collaboration hub.
- 20       3.     The collaboration hub of claim 2 wherein said additional  
          component is a decoder for decoding messages between the hub  
          transport layer and the hub.
4.     The collaboration hub of claim 2 wherein said additional  
25       component is an encoder for encoding messages between the hub and  
          the hub transport layer.

5. The collaboration hub of claim 2 wherein said additional component is a messaging router for routing between participants.

6. The collaboration hub of claim 2 wherein said additional  
5 component is a messaging filter for filtering message to and from a participant.

7. The collaboration hub of claim 2 wherein said additional  
10 component is a messaging logic plugin for intelligent routing and filtering of messages to and from participants.

8. The collaboration hub of claim 2 wherein said additional  
15 component is a business logic plugin for integrating with a business logic used by the participant.

9. The collaboration hub of claim 8 wherein said business logic  
plugin is a RosettaNet plugin.

10. The collaboration hub of claim 9 wherein said RosettaNet  
20 plugin allows the sending of messages from one RosettaNet client to another.

11. A method for transferring messages between participants in  
a collaboration system, comprising the steps of:  
25 receiving messages via a hub transport from a first participants  
and sending messages to a second participant;

routing messages via a hub router from a first participant to a second participant;

scheduling the flow of messages between the hub router and the hub transport;

5 managing the flow of messages between participants; and,  
storing conversation management data in a repository.

10 12. The method of claim 11 wherein additional steps may be included as plugins into the collaboration hub.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said additional step includes decoding messages between the hub transport layer and the hub.

15 14. The method of claim 12 wherein said additional step includes encoding messages between the hub and the hub transport layer.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein said additional step includes routing messages between participants.

20 16. The method of claim 12 wherein said additional step includes filtering messages to and from a participant.

25 17. The method of claim 11 further comprising processing a messaging logic for intelligent routing and filtering of messages to and from participants.

18. The method of claim 11 further comprising processing a business logic for integrating with a business logic used by the participant.

5 19. The method of claim 18 wherein said processing a business logic processes a RosettaNet format message.

10 20. The method of claim 19 wherein said RosettaNet message processing allows the sending of messages from one RosettaNet client to another.

21. A collaboration hub for use with a collaboration system, comprising:  
a hub transport for receiving messages from participants and sending messages to participants;  
15 a hub router for routing messages from a first participant to a second participant; and  
a hub scheduler for scheduling the flow of messages between the hub router and the hub transport.

20 22. A method for transferring messages between participants in a collaboration system, comprising the steps of:  
receiving messages via a hub transport from a first participants and sending messages to a second participant;  
routing messages via a hub router from a first participant to a  
25 second participant; and  
scheduling the flow of messages between the hub router and the hub transport.